



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,751	08/30/2001	Dan Stoianovici	56436(71699)	8459
21874	7590	09/26/2006	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP P.O. BOX 55874 BOSTON, MA 02205			NGUYEN, VI X	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3734	

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/943,751

Applicant(s)

STOIANOVICI ET AL.

Examiner

Victor X. Nguyen

Art Unit

3734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26, 29-36, 38, 39 and 42-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 44 and 45 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26, 29-36, 38, 39, 42, 43, 46 and 48-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 27, 28, 40-41 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The request filed on 8/12/2006 for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/943,751 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-26,29-36,38-39,42-43,46 and 48-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Madhani et al (6,786,896).

Madhani et al disclose in figures 1-3, a device for percutaneous surgery in a soft tissue target, including: a first arm (304) is configured and arranged to support the penetrating member (312) which can have a translational axis, a first drive mechanism (310) is coupled to the first arm and configured to translate the first arm from an initial position to any of a number of other positions from the initial position, thereby also translating the penetrating member towards the target area, where the first arm and the first drive mechanism are coupled to the manipulation device (318). Furthermore, the first arm is configured and arranged to rotatably support the penetrating member about the translational axis of the penetrating member, and where a second drive mechanism (302) is coupled to the penetrating member and arranged to cause the penetrating member to rotate about the translational axis of the penetrating member (figures 2, 3,

Art Unit: 3734

see col. 11, lines 1-7), and where the first drive mechanism (310) includes a linear guide (inherent feature), where a second drive mechanism (302) is coupled to the penetrating member (312) and is configured to cause the penetrating member to rotate, and where the second drive mechanism comprises a gear member (see col. 12, lines 23-27) secured to the penetrating member and coupled to a motor (MO-M7)), and where a second arm (5) is coupled to the first drive mechanism (310), where the second drive mechanism is coupled to the penetrating member (312) so as to cause the penetrating member to rotate about the translational axis of the penetrating member.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 44-45 are allowed.

Claims 27-28 and 40-41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, discloses all of the limitations of claims 27-28 and 40-41 including, the second drive mechanism further includes a drive gear that is mechanically coupled to the motor and the penetrating member gear member so that the penetrating member gear member rotates responsive to rotation of the drive gear, and where the motor is a bi-directional motor where the penetrating member can be rotated in one of a clockwise and counter clockwise direction responsive to the direction of rotation of the motor.

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 8/12/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Madhani reference fails to teach a first arm which is arranged to rotatably support a penetrating member about the translational axis of the penetrating member, where a second drive mechanism is coupled to the penetrating member which is arranged to cause the penetrating member to rotate about the translational axis of the penetrating member. The examiner, respectfully, disagrees. The phrase "penetrating member" in the claim is broad enough to mean that a first arm (304) is arranged to support a penetrating member (element 312 is grasped by gripper 318 and allowed element 312 to be disposed in the target area), where a second drive mechanism (302) coupled to the penetrating member and arranged to cause the penetrating member to rotate about the translational axis of the penetrating member (figs. 2-3 do disclose element 312 that has some form of rotation which is capable to cause the penetrating member to rotate about the translational axis of the penetrating member). Furthermore, the first arm 304 includes the first drive mechanism 310, Thus this arrangement will allow the first drive mechanism to rotate about the translational axis of the penetrating member 312. Accordingly, the above noted reference is still considered to read on the claimed limitations of the claims noted.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 3734

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor X. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4699.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4.30 P.M).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-4697. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Victor X Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 3734



VN
9/17/2006



MICHAEL J. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER